



ATTACHMENT A

Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed on October 05, 2006, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 50 – 79 are pending in the application. However, claims 1 – 48 are rejected in the Office Action. More particularly, the pending application was filed on November 17, 2003 as a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/021,568, filed on February 10, 1998, in response to a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences dated September 25, 2003. A preliminary amendment was filed with the filing of the pending application. The preliminary amendment canceled claims 1 – 49, and added claims 50 – 79.

It appears that the preliminary amendment may have been inadvertently overlooked and that the claims pending in the application have not been examined. Therefore, either clarification of the rejection, or examination of claims 50 – 79 is respectfully requested.

END REMARKS